

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

April, 2011

ISSUE 38

LAST MINUTE DETAILS ABOUT THE NATIONAL SALE....

73 Head of Quality Tunis entered!

Contact Banner Sales Management for sale catalog

(if you have not received yours by May 1st!)

You still have time to enter the Tunis Wool contest!

NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting – Friday – May 27 @ 3:00 pm

NTSRI General Membership Meeting – Saturday – May 28

@ Picnic Shelter – 30 minutes after the end of the Tunis Show!

****SPECIAL AUCTION ITEM** – A registered Tunis, spring ewe lamb will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to the NTSRI Youth Fund.

This ewe is DONATED by CCC Tunis of Fontanelle, Iowa.

"Larry Calkins and Mike Cass proudly support the NTSRI youth and the entire Tunis breed. Staying true to the basic Tunis traits and heritage, we breed production Tunis Rams and Ewes that will work for you." **THANKS!**

****REMEMBER YOUTH....**This is the time to enter the FREE youth sales credits give-away. We have 6 to give away at Wooster!

1 - \$50 Sales Credit by NTSRI

1 - \$50 Sales Credit by OTSA

1 - \$50 Sales Credit in Peter Harris' memory

1 - \$50 Sales Credit In Ragina Powell's memory

& 2 - \$50 Credits by the New Jersey Tunis Breeders

****REMEMBER YOUTH....**This is the 1st sale of the year where you can purchase your Futurity Nominated Ewe Lambs.....check out the amount of money won by this year's entries!

CHECK THE TUNIS WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!

www.tunissheep.org

NTSRI NEWSLETTER MISSION STATEMENT....*"The two main purposes of the NTSRI newsletter are to promote the Tunis breed of sheep and all activities connected with this breed and to educate all members or interested people about the breed in a positive, supportive manner."* NTSRI Board Approved...May, 2005

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jayce Coers, 202 H Logan, New Holland, IL 62671	Region 6
Emily Colli & N Swaney, 84 Mile Creek Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371	Region 1
Matt & Susan Husk, 1021 Satterly Rd., Ferrisburg, VT 05456	Region 1
Linda Derrickson Kessenich, 135 Helgeson Rd., Blandchardville, WI 53516	Region 7
Neal Knapp, 13024 N CR 625E, Roachdale, IN 46172	Region 6
Reece & Lois Luthy, 63428 270 Trail, Humboldt, NE 68376	Region 7
Dale & Joan Pimm, 3858 Stoddard Rd, Canandalgua, NY 14424	Region 2
C, B & K Schwendeman, 11980 St Rt 676, Vincent, OH 45784	Region 4
Keri Wayman, 242 St. Hwy 7, Afton, NY 13730	Region 2
Brian Willsey, 2177 Hwy Zz, Owensville, MO 65066	Region 7

Dan Kleman, Region 4 Director, writes....

Several weeks ago Dale Huhnke asked the directors to proof read the membership list for the upcoming directory. As I read the list, I saw many names of people who I have known for many years. I also was surprised to see how many members in my region I had never met. I hope that many of the members that I have not met yet will attend the National Sale in Wooster. The National Sale is a great place to meet your director and fellow members of the NTSRI. The National Sale provides us with a great place to promote our Tunis and meet folks with similar interest. Be sure to make a point of introducing yourself to me if you attend Wooster of the Ohio State Fair this year. I look forward to meeting all the members of Region 4.

I have spoken to many people in our region that will be making trips to various sales this spring as sellers and buyers. Members will be attending sales in Wooster, Sedalia, and some have even talked about making the trip to New England. I would personally like to thank all the people who are supporting these sales. Remember to network with other breeders to get to and from these sales. Even though we are seeing record prices for our lambs this year it is important to watch costs to maximize profits. If you have trouble networking don't hesitate to contact me at 419-235-3096 and I will try to help you out.

See you at Wooster, Dan Kleman, Region 4 Director

ABOUT THE MIDWEST STUD RAM SALE.....Sedalia, MO

Check the Missouri Tunis website for a show catalog & pictures!

www.MOTunis.com

Monday, June 20 @ 4 pm

Tunis Showmanship

Wednesday, June 22 @ noon

Complimentary lunch for all!

Tunis Sale @ 4 pm

ALL AMERICAN JR SHOW....NAT'L TUNIS JR SHOW!

The weekend starts with a trip to the beach....and gets bigger & better from there!

Starts June 30thTunis show Saturday, July 2nd @ 8 am!

Google "All American Jr Sheep Show" for more details!

In Memory of Peter Harris....

Peter L. Harris 63, of Lyons St. Ludlow, MA died peacefully in the care and comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family on Friday April 1, 2011 after a valiant three year battle with glioblastoma. Born in Ludlow, MA June 12, 1947 he was a lifelong resident, educated in local schools, and a graduate of Ludlow High School and Springfield Technical Community College. He proudly served his country during the Vietnam Era, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Army of the United States. Decorated for his service he received the Bronze Star, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device, Expert Badge & Rifle Bar, and the Sharpshooter Badge and Rifle Bar. He was Assistant Chief Engineer at ABC 40 WGGB TV for 40 years.

Peter was happiest when he was farming. He raised his first sheep at the age of 9 belonging to Tom & Elsie Hiersche's 4-H Sheep Club. In their sheep club he met his future wife Judy. Married in 1970 they shared 41 years together, and built a sheep farm of prize winning Tunis, Shropshire, and Cheviot Sheep. He was active in New England and national sheep organizations, served as President and as Director of many, including the National Tunis Sheep Registry, Inc., the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association, Northeast Shropshire Association, the Pioneer Valley Shepherds, and was the current leader of the Pioneer Valley Young Shepherd's.

Peter won many top honors at major fairs, the Big E, the National Sheep Exposition in Louisville, KY and many fairs throughout New England, New York, Illinois and Ohio. He has passed his passion for raising and showing sheep to his grandsons. He was also an accomplished sheep shearer. Part of farming is haying, a task Peter loved and shared with his best friend and shadow for 14 years, his special grandson Dillon Harris. Following in Gramp's footsteps, Dillon was able to do all the haying these past few summers as his illness progressed with help from his Dad, Tim. Dillon also took over the daily sheep farm chores when Gramp was getting tired. Dillon is now raising his Gramp's cherished Shropshire sheep and his cousin Kyle is raising the Tunis.

He is survived by his loving family, his wife Judy (Hiersche) Harris, son Jeff Harris and his wife Cyndi of Palmer, daughter Amy Priest and her husband Tim of Ludlow, his caring mother in law Elsie Hiersche, who has been by his side since he was 9, 6 grandsons to cherish his memory, Dillon Harris, Tyler, Connor, his name sake little Peter Priest, Kyle Harris and Cody Ward.

Peter was laid to rest on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. His casket was driven from the church to the Island Pond Cemetery on a flatbed trailer pulled by his favorite Massey Ferguson tractor with his grandson Dillon driving. The procession, led by area farmers on their tractors was a fitting tribute to a man who loved his family and his farm and who will be missed by many.

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There will be a \$50 youth sales credit given by Peter's friends at the National Sale in Wooster in honor of Peter and his interest in the youth.

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SHOW & SALE ROTATION.....

National Sale

2011 - Great Lakes Show
Wooster, OH

*National Sale sites are
scheduled one year at a time
and must fit the requirements

National Youth Show

2011 - Junior All American
Herrington, Delaware
2012 - Junior All American
Des Moines, IA

National Open Show

2011 - The Big Expo
W. Springfield, MA
2012 - Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO
2013 - NAILE - Louisville, KY

NTSRI Treasurer's Report.....Sally Barney

INCOME:

Associated Registries	\$ 2,360.00
Brochure Sales.....	\$ 10.00
Calendar Sales.....	\$ 513.00
Directory.....	<u>\$2,953.50</u>
TOTAL	\$5,836.50

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$ 135.50
Directory.....	\$ 216.89
Dues Trans Fees.....	\$ 253.65
Dup Paper Trans Fees	\$ 2.85
NAILE Jr Show.....	\$ 744.00
NAILE Open Show	\$1,137.00
Photo Contest Awards.....	\$ 115.80
Newsletter	\$ 528.54
Postage – AR.....	\$ 15.00
Promo Mailing	\$ 73.40
Reg. Trans Fees.....	\$ 353.40
Rush Fees.....	\$ 2.85
Star of Louisville Sale	\$ 410.00
Transfer Trans Fees.....	\$ 350.55
Directory Refund	\$ 150.00
TOTAL	\$4,489.17
	(+\$1,347.33)

Jan. 8, 2011 – April 8, 2011

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL SALE.....May 27-29th @ Wooster

Sales Catalogs will be mailed the end of April and will be available on line at the time also....please feel free to contact the Banner Sales Management @ 309-785-5058 if you do not receive your catalog in a timely manner!

There are 73 Tunis entered!

Remember....youth to enter the **FREE youth sales credit give-away**

- 1 - \$50 Sales Credit by NTSRI
- 1 - \$50 Sales Credit by OTSA
- 1 - \$50 Sales Credit in Peter Harris' memory
- 1 - \$50 Sales Credit in Ragina Powell's memory
- & POSSIBIITY 2 MORE \$50 CREDITS!**

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SALE & SHOW TIMELINE: @ Fairgrounds in Wooster, OH

Friday, May 27 th	Sheep Move in	
	Complimentary Friday Night Dinner @ the Fairgrounds	6:00 pm
Saturday, May 28 th	NTSRI National Tunis Wool Show	Sat. am
	NTSRI National Tunis Show	9:00 am
	Saturday Night Tunis Dinner	6:30 pm
	Youth Futurity Awards & Auction @ Fairgrounds	
Sunday, May 29 th	Complimentary donuts & coffee	9:00 am
	Used Sheep Equipment Auction	9:00 am
	NTSRI National Tunis Sale	11:00 am
	Light Lunch served by OTSA after the sale	

SATURDAY NIGHT TUNIS DINNER RESERVATIONS:

MUST BE MADE BY MAY 18TH! The Saturday night meal will be held at the fairgrounds in the dining hall and will be catered by Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen from Mt. Hope, OH. They will be serving an Amish style buffet and the food should be very good. We will have Wedding Chicken, Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy, Dressing, Noodles, Green Beans and Tossed Salad, Assorted Pies, Lemonade, Iced Tea and Water.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 18th and can be paid for at Wooster before the meal. Please Call or write to Ohio Tunis Sheep Association; Attn: Cynthy Kleman, 10557 Rd M, Ottawa, OH 45875 or 419-538-6383. or 419-235-1490. dckleman@bright.net

ADULTS: \$14.50 Children – ages 3- 9: \$10.00

SATURDAY NIGHT AUCTION: The Auctions held at the Saturday night Tunis Dinner will benefit upcoming Tunis activities and the National Tunis Youth. Various groups and individuals are donating items of interest to the Tunis membership. **We hope you will support the auction either by bringing an item to sell or buying an item! There will be something for everyone.**

MOTELS & CAMPING:

AmeriHost Inn East now known as the Rodeway Inn at 330-262-5008 will serve as our headquarters and has a special rate for our group when you ask for the National Tunis sheep rate. Also.....

Wooster Best Western	330-264-7750	AmeriHost North	330-345-1500
EconoLodge	330-264-8883	Hampton Inn	330-345-4424
Super 8 Motel	800-800-8000	The Wooster Inn	330-263-2661

Camping.....is available at the Fairgrounds...contact Linda Reichert at 330-264-9665.

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REMINDER!!!

3rd Annual NTSRI Tunis Wool Contest

May 28th & 29th, 2010

Great Lakes Wool Festival &

National Tunis Sale, Wooster, OH

Entry Fee - \$3.00 per fleece

Fleeces may be shipped to Kim Day and **must** be received by Friday, May 20th

Mailing address is: 196 Hill School Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

Questions? Email anyone on the Wool Show Committee: Debbi Brown (texastunis@yahoo.com), Kim Day (redropefarm@yahoo.com), Louise Dunham (tunis@bright.net.) and Marianne Turcheck (marianne@rostraverfarm.com).

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Don't forget your lawn chairs!

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SHOW.....Sept. 22 - 28th

@ The Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts!

A Recent Press Release.....

2011 NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW TO BE HELD AT THE BIG

The 2011 National Tunis Show is going to be held in conjunction with The Big E on Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 PM. The show will be judged by Doris Powell, Rome, PA. The BIG E in West Springfield, Massachusetts is the ninth largest fair in the country and runs for 17 days starting on September 16th. The fair itself offers many special attractions including: Historic Storrowtown Village right on the fairgrounds, the Avenue of State Buildings where each New England state has a specific building dedicated to that state's food and commerce, a daily Mardi Gras Parade where you can catch your own set of beads, Circus Shows, live Concert entertainment, and an endless array of food and commercial exhibits.

The Mallary Agriculture Complex will be able to accept sheep for the Tunis show from Wednesday, Sept. 21st after 10:00 pm through Thursday, Sept 22nd 9:00 PM. The Tunis breed will be part of the Week 2 Big E Sheep Show which includes the wool breeds. Sheep will be released on Wednesday, Sept. 28th. Yes, this is a week long sheep show and goes back to the tradition of where sheep shows were longer to allow for exhibitors to gather for a relaxing, good time where you not only show your sheep but you get to enjoy the fair itself, have special activities for your show and enjoy the company of your fellow breeders. What better atmosphere for a National Show? Exhibitors receive a full compliment of admission and parking passes. RV hookups are available right next to the sheep barn for a nominal fee per night. Complimentary coffee and donuts are provided to the sheep exhibitors every morning in the sheep barn. There is also an exhibitor lounge and shower facility available right in the Mallary Complex.

The Tunis Show will be offering \$5664 in premiums, double the premiums offered in Louisville! The show will feature slick shorn classes, junior and senior champion drives, and four lamb classes for each sex. The BIG E will also offer additional premiums for the top placing juniors in each individual class and will also have a Championship drive for the junior exhibitors. The junior owners do need to be present and actively showing their sheep to receive the additional premiums. The BIG E also provides special show awards to the Tunis Premier Exhibitor and Tunis Premier Breeder of the Show in addition to all the special sponsorships given by the Tunis breeders.

The Northeast Tunis breeders are planning many special events for the exhibitors including an ice cream social, a catered sit down dinner in the Mallary Complex Saturday night and pizza after the show itself. The group is also going to be giving a special show memento to every exhibitor welcoming everyone to the New England area.

For your accommodations there are several motel chains in the Springfield/Enfield, CT area. For those driving in, the Big E is just a few minutes from the Mass Pike (I-90) and also I-91. For those wishing to fly, the Bradley International Airport in Hartford, CT, is only about 20 minutes from the grounds.

In addition to the fun of the being at The Big E, there are several local attractions to take in. The Basketball Hall of Fame is just down the road. Boston and Cape Cod is about 2 hours away, The Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport sits to the south on the Long Island Sound. Old Deerfield and Yankee Candle is under an hour to the north. For a longer trip, you might like to investigate the coast of Maine or the Green Mountains of Vermont or the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Albany, NY is about 2 hours west. New York City is a little further to the southwest. Niagara Falls would be along your way if you were driving via the northern route.

The Big E's Agriculture and Education Director Donna Woolam extends a hearty welcome to the National Tunis Show. Sheep Show Superintendent Debra Hopkins will see to the needs of the exhibitors and their animals to make your stay a pleasant one. For more information go to www.thebige.com or write to 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. The phone number in the ag office is 413-205-5011. The premium book will be available online. Entries can be made online by August 15th. Late entries are accepted until Sept. 1st for double the cost. The Big E is looking forward to hosting the 2011 National Show for the Tunis breed. See you in September!

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Next Newsletter – July 15th Deadline!

Hello from the North East!

We are all glad that Spring has sprung, the flowers are blooming and thank goodness the snow is melting and healthy lambs are on the ground. Just an update on the National Show at the Big E. Arrival date is Thursday, September 22nd. On Friday, an ice cream social. Saturday afternoon is Lead Line and that evening is a catered dinner. Sunday afternoon the Tunis Show followed by a pizza party.

Just a reminder the hotels that have a block of rooms reserved are The Candlewood Suites (West Springfield, MA) Reservations made by Aug. 22nd. The Motel 6 – 1 – 800-544-4866 (Chicopee, MA) Reservations made by Aug. 23rd. Identify yourselves as National Tunis Show Group. Camper Space is \$10.00 a night. If you would like to rent a camper, then call Mann's Trailers to reserve it. They will have it on site.

Thank you to all who stepped up and sponsored various classes.

We will be bringing specialty items to Auction off at the National Sale in Ohio. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised. We are looking forward to seeing you at the National Show in September. If you have any questions, feel free to call.

Anne Marie Chapdelaine, Liaison for National Show

A HISTORICAL B&B EXPERIENCE WHILE AT THE BIG E

The NETSA is looking forward to seeing as many Tunis breeders as possible from across the country at the Big E in September for The National Tunis Show. We are John & Maryanne McDonough and we own and operate The David Brown Farm in Winchendon, MA. The farm is about one hour from the Big E. During the National Tunis Sale in Wooster OH, the NETSA will be auctioning off a chance to spend a night at our farm which will include one night's lodging with a four course gourmet dinner consisting of a menu offering seafood, beef, poultry or pork. There will also be home baked goodies available the next morning. The complete menu choices along with interior photos of the farm will be on display at the National Tunis Sale in Wooster OH, during the weekend of May 27-29. All the proceeds from this auction will support the NETSA efforts to put on a great National Tunis Show.

About the farm..... Our farm has a rich historical past and has been involved in agriculture since the early 1700's. The original home was a four room colonial possibly dating back to the 1600's. In 1750, David Brown purchased the property. In 1768, the saltbox roof and addition was erected. Col. James and Deacon Thomas Barrett of Concord, Massachusetts provided financing for "The re-roofing of the Brown Homestead". The Barrett brothers were heavily involved in the Revolutionary War. James was the commander in the Concord fight and Thomas was involved in business with his brother.

The Browns had two children, Samuel and William. William was found dead in the well as a child and Samuel went on to serve the nation by participating in The Battle of Bunker Hill, Brandywine and served with the Third Massachusetts Artillery thus spending that infamous winter with Washington at Valley Forge.

The farm had several owners during the 1800's and all owners were involved with dairy farming in one form or another. In 1908 The Hospital Cottages for Children purchased the property. The hospital treated crippled children from over the world and had a long and prestigious history. The property now known as The David Brown Farm provided all of the agricultural needs for the hospital for about eighty years.

We purchased the farm in 1990 and restored the house and grounds as well as decorating the interior with period antiques. You can catch a look at the farm by going to our website (thepatiopack.com). We will have much more information available at Wooster in May.

If your planning on being in Wooster for the National Sale and plan on showing at the National Tunis Show in September at the Big E, please consider bidding on this unique experience.

Thank you.

John & Maryanne McDonough

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2011 Tunis Calendars available:

We have about 70 2011 Tunis calendars left. If you did not purchase one, you will have a chance at the upcoming National Sale in Wooster. Calendars are \$5 a piece and all the money from the sale of the calendars will go toward the national youth fund.

Eric Irvine, Newly Elected Region 3 Director writes....

Hello from Region 3! Just wanted to update everyone on our upcoming events. First is the All American Junior Show on over the July 4th weekend. As I've said this is an awesome show, that I think everyone youth should attend. There are a lot of great activities, and it is the National Tunis Junior Show, need I say more?

Then there is the Keystone International Livestock Expo, at this time, the state has not passed the funding for the show yet, but I will keep you updated on that. If the funding is passed, we are planning on having the Tunis Bred Ewe Sale again this year. If you need any information on these events please feel free to contact me at 724-650-4880 or canchaser@zoominternet.net.

I would also like to wish everyone good luck with the upcoming national show and sale.

Thank you....**Eric Irvine**

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Let's "Open the Barn Doors"by Barbara Cassell

There is an article in the April 2011 PROGRESSIVE FARMER entitled "Open the Barn Door." The title caught my eye and so I read with curiosity. As I contemplated several key points discussed in the article, I realized that though the article was more about hog production, we in the sheep industry need to pay attention and take measures to "open the barn door" on our industry and tell the real story of modern sheep production. We need to highlight the benefits of producing protein for food and to show that these operations foster economic and altruistic outcomes in our local communities and indeed to the world, while we continue to be good stewards of our animals and environments.

We can open our barn doors literally by offering tours of our farms and telling first-hand about our operations and love for our animals and lands. We can extend our open barn door efforts by participating in local events such as heritage days and fairs. However, if farm visits or display events are not possible because of security concerns or comfort in public speaking, we are offered many other media outlets to foster positive attitudes about responsible sheep production and its many benefits to all. Farm websites depicting our pride in our animals, PowerPoint presentations, virtual tours created with photos to be posted through various social media, and interviews done for printed media can all be used to inform the non-agriculture community about production agriculture. When we reach out to as many local groups as we can and include our efforts in social media, we can foster positive attitudes and build viewers in Google (and like) researches that help to fight the misleading and overwrought messages of anti-farm activists that have been so prominently seen in the last few years.

Our sheep industry, as indeed do all agriculture industries, needs to show the more personal side of what we do and why we do it. Most of our non-agricultures neighbors, friends, and countrymen do not internalize the scientific facts used in the past to fight the emotional barrage used by anti-farm activists. We must show that we in the sheep production industry are passionate about producing food for all in environmentally responsible, neighbor friendly, and animal protective operations. We need to use whatever media we feel comfortable with and perhaps even "push the envelope" a bit and use the newest social media (Tweeter, Facebook, blogging, etc.) to help our non-farm friends, neighbors, and countrymen understand our passion for and the necessity of producing food.

Sheep producers need to find their comfort levels in participating in local events and using social media to help non-agriculture folks understand our dedication, methods, and love for producing their food; and we need to begin today and continue everyday so that we are not left behind in this fast moving, sound bite consuming world. So, let's get busy and "open those barn doors!"

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Remember when you sell a sheep...

Send me the name & address & I'll send them a PROMOTIONAL PACKET OF INFORMATION!
(It's like a bonus that comes from buying sheep from you!)

2011 NTSRI CALENDAR:

May 18 th	Deadline for Meal Reservation @ Wooster
May 27-29 th	<u>National Tunis Show & Sale</u> @ Wooster, OH WOOL SHOW, TOO!
June 11 th	Midwest Jr. Preview Show @ Chillicothe, MO
June 20 th	Entry Deadline for Ohio State Fair
June 20-24 th	Midwest Stud Ram Sale @ Sedalia, MO
July 1 st	Entry Deadline for Indiana State Fair & Missouri State Fair
July 8-9 th	New England Youth Show & Sale @ W. Springfield, MA
Aug. 4 th	Ohio State Fair Open Class Tunis Show @ Columbus, OH
Aug. 14-20 th	Indiana State Fair & Missouri State Fair
Aug. 15 th	Entry Deadline for <u>National Tunis Show</u> @ The Big E in W. Springfield, MA
Aug. 19 th	NY Bred Ewe Sale Entry Deadline
Sept. 2-5 th	Woodstock Fair @ Woodstock, CT www.woodstockfair.com
Sept. 25 th	<u>National Tunis Show @ The Big E in W. Springfield, MA</u>
Oct. 1 st	Entry Deadline for NAILE @ Louisville, KY
Oct. 1 st	*** Deadline for NTSRI Entry Fees for NAILE
Oct. 1 st	Entry Deadline for Star of Louisville Sale
Oct. 14-16 th	New York Bred Ewe Sale @ Rhinebeck, NY
Nov. 1 st	LAST DAY TO PAY NTSRI LATE FEE OF \$50 TO SHOW AT NAILE
Nov. 5 -6 th	FIBER FESTIVAL OF NEW ENGLAND @ Springfield, MA
Nov. 12 th	Star of Louisville Sale @ NAILE @ Louisville, KY
Nov. 13 th	Tunis Jr. Show @ NAILE @ Louisville, KY
Nov. 14-18 th	Open Class Tunis Show @ NAILE @ Louisville, KY

***Please send dates! Let's spread the word about Tunis activities!

LET'S PUBLICIZE YOUR SHOW... We'll publish any show reports... youth or open...for any show that has at least 3 Tunis exhibitors and at least 15 head! Just send the results for the classes & champions! Judge? Location?

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The First Annual Tunis Yearling Jackpot Show continues to be off to a great start. The Jackpot is growing.....! The third entry fee of \$10.00/head was due April 1, 2011 and at the present time, there are thirteen farms participating with 30 ewe lambs (now yearlings) entered. The next and final entry fee of \$30.00/head is due July 1, 2011. Final details for the 2011 Tunis Yearling Jackpot Show at the North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) will be in the next newsletter. The payout...100% of entry fees and donor support, less cost (10% to NETSA for the Youth Programs) will be distributed to the first 5 places in the Jackpot Show. 1st place-50%, 2nd place-20%, 3rd place-15%, 4th place-10%, 5th place-5%.

If you did not get involved this year, but would like to participate next year; please read the Tunis Yearling Ewe Jackpot Show information on the NTSRI website; call or write and I will be happy to send you the information. We will also have information packets available at Wooster. This Jackpot Show is open to both junior and senior NTSRI members. The 2012 Jackpot Show's first entry fee of \$5.00/head will be due July 1, 2011, more details in the next newsletter.

Good luck and may all yearlings continue to mature and be the lucky ones to win The Jackpot!

Sharon Kerns, Harvard, MA

sharonkerns@charter.net

978-456-1240

NTSRI "Youth" News!

2011 NTSRI SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS:

May 20 th	<u>Entry Deadline for Nat'l JR Tunis Show @ Delaware</u>
June 11 th	<u>Midwest Jr. Preview Show @ Chillicothe, MO</u>
July 1-3 rd	<u>National Jr. Tunis Show @ JR All American @ Harrington, DE</u>
July 7-10 th	New England Youth Show & Sale @ W. Springfield, MA
Oct. 1 st	Entry Deadline for NAILE @ Louisville, KY
Nov. 13 th	Tunis Jr. Show @ NAILE @ Louisville, KY

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Make plans now to attend 2nd Annual Midwest Junior Preview Show

The 2nd annual Midwest Junior Preview Show will be held on June 11, 2011 in Chillicothe, MO. The show will be hosted at the Litton Agri-Science Learning Center, in their indoor, air-conditioned facilities. Last year's event welcomed over 80 exhibitors from 8 different states with over 300 entered sheep!

Entries open online April 1 at www.MoTunis.com. If participants prefer to enter by mail, please call Kate Lambert to be added to the mailing list or enter over the phone. People may also enter the day of the show, but are not guaranteed a T-Shirt and goody bag if entries are not received by June 1. All breeds are welcome, including commercial breeding sheep in the newly added commercial division! Last year 14 breeds were represented.

Again this year Larry Mead, of the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, has generously donated \$600 to provide a \$300 cash award for each Supreme Champion Ram and Ewe. Helen Swartz, long time Missouri sheep producer is again making it possible for each showmanship winner to receive a \$100 cash award! The breed shows will again pay out several thousand in premium awards, with all checks being written the day of the show.

Ketcham's Sheep Equipment, Inc. has also become a big sponsor by sponsoring all of the goody bags that will be handed out to each junior member who is registered by June 1.

This year's show will again host the Regional Suffolk Junior Show as well as the Regional Junior Shropshire Show. New additions for 2011 include a Friday evening Pizza Party and an ice cream social sponsored by the Missouri Dorset Association and a commercial breeding sheep division.

Registration begins Saturday morning at 7:00am, with shows beginning promptly at 9:00a.m. If you have any questions on this event, please contact Kate Lambert at 660-541-0468 or email MissouriTunis@hotmail.com. You may also visit us online at www.Missourisheep.com.

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NEW ENGLAND YOUTH SHOW & SALE & Jr All American!

The 2011 North East Youth Sheep Show will be taking place July 7-10th, 2011, one week earlier than previous years. It is held in the Livestock Complex at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The youth show is open to all youth 21 years old and younger as of January 1st with all breeds of sheep being eligible. The sheep and exhibitors should arrive by Thursday, July 8th; with all animals being penned by 11:00 p.m. Activities begin on Thursday evening and continue right through the weekend with the finale being the selection of the Supreme Champions on Sunday afternoon. For more information, please visit the NES & WAG website (www.nesheep.org). Pens will be available earlier in the week for those youth who plan to come from the All-American. Look for us now on Facebook. We look forward to another successful year.

NTSRI \$50 SALES CREDITS FOR YOUTH TO BE GIVEN AWAY

AT. National Tunis Sale - OH Mid West Stud Ram Sale - MO
New England Youth Show & Sale - MA Star of Louisville Sale - KY
Remember...the youth don't have to be in attendance...just have an individual buyer's # and someone to bid for them! Drawing prior to the sale! No entry fee to enter! Just sign up at the sales!

NTSRI FUTURITY NOMINATED EWE LAMBS WILL BE SOLD -

AT - National Tunis Sale - OH Mid West Stud Ram Sale - MO
New England Youth Show & Sale - MA
Remember....there is no charge to enter to the youth...just buy a Futurity nominated ewe lamb and you are automatically entered into the Futurity...last year more than \$1500 was given away to the top 10 kids in the futurity!

2010 EWE LAMB FUTURITY FINAL RESULTS!

Jr Member	Futurity Lamb	# of shows	Points	\$\$\$\$
1. Jacob Long, MO	Mom's 2600	5	48	\$300.00
2. Taylor Harrison, NY	Triangle Farms 1097	5	45	\$225.00
3. DJ Swartz, NY	Wise 1015	5	43	\$187.50
4. Taylor Harrison, NY	MJM 0866	5	38	\$168.75
5. Mandy Swartz, NY	Square M 178	5	36	\$150.00
6. Kalie Harrison, NY	RQL Farms 1035	5	35	\$131.25
7. Justine Swartz, NY	JET 1009	4	34	\$112.50
8. Jacob Long, MO	Uptown 1008	5	29	\$ 93.75
9. Kalie Harrison, NY	Triangle Farms 1093	5	27	\$ 75.00
10. Mindy Stoops-Irvine, PA	Mom's 430	1	20	\$ 56.25

CHECKS WILL BE AWARDED AT WOOSTER!

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So, kids...why aren't you signing up for the free sales Credits?
So, kids...why aren't you buying a Futurity nominated ewe lamb to show
this summer?

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"Pop-a-Top" for Riley's Children Hospital

We are in the final stretch of our 2010/11 national Tunis youth service project. Our Tunis youth are collecting pop tops for Riley's Children Hospital of Indianapolis. Our final collection will be Saturday afternoon after the membership meeting at the National Sale in Wooster, Ohio. If you are unable to be in Wooster you can send your collection of pop tops by May 25 to: Dale Huhnke, 1725 W CR 450 N, Muncie, IN 47303.

Our first place winner in collecting pop tops will receive a \$50 gift card. Second place a \$25 gift card and our third place winner will receive a \$10 gift card. Each participant will receive something special for collecting the pop tops for the past year.

Gathering the tops will be Linda Cook and Dale Huhnke. For more information you can email [Dale at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com](mailto:dalehuhnke@yahoo.com). So go out and collect those tops!!

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Sheep For Profit School!

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool program will conduct a "Sheep for Profit" School July 6-9, 2011 in Pipestone, Minnesota.

The "Sheep for Profit" School is a professional management and business school for the sheep industry. The purpose of the school is to help producers improve their sheep management skills; increase the profitability of their sheep operation and form business relationships. The school will be intense and combine lecture, group discussion and visit two outstanding Pipestone area sheep operations. Expert instructors with diverse and practical sheep experience will help you define your vision and build a practical plan to achieve your goals. This is a three and a half day investment that will change your sheep operation and how you view the sheep industry.

Enrollment in the school is limited to a maximum of 20 students to create an ideal learning environment and allow for one-on-one advising. Visit our website for registration information and a course schedule. For more information, contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, PO Box 250, Pipestone, MN 56164 or call 1-800-658-2330 or email: jodichristensen@mnwest.edu.

Thanks! Philip Berg, Lamb & Wool Instructor, Minnesota West, Pipestone Campus
PO Box 250 1314 North Hiawatha, Pipestone, MN 56164
philip.berg@mnwest.edu www.pipestonesheep.com

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Tunis Pride Photo Contest:

Congratulations to the following monthly winners of the Tunis Pride Photo Contest: January Val Ames of Canada; February Kim Day of Pennsylvania; and March Dawn Schakel of Indiana. Each winner received a \$25 Visa gift card. Now why don't you try and be our lucky monthly winner. Please email your Tunis photo entries to Debbi Brown or Dale Huhnke. To qualify for each month you need to send the photo by the 5th of the month. If you send an entry you will need to sign a photo release form. That form is on the NTSRI website, www.tunissheep.org. Go out and take those wonderful photos of your Tunis Sheep.

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"It's a red thing" t-shirt and logo design contest

Here's an opportunity for all Tunis breeders to get involved in the organization. We are having a t-shirt and logo design contest. We are looking for designs that will be based on the theme "It's a Red Thing" for t-shirts or hats. The winner of the design contest will get a \$50 Visa gift card. There will also be 2nd and 3rd place prizes as well and participant prizes. Please bring your designs to the National Tunis Sale Memorial Day weekend in Wooster, Ohio. We will display the designs for everyone to view and announce the winner on Sunday morning before the sale. For more information please contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or email your entry by May 25 at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com.

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2011 Indiana State Fair

Entry

deadline for the 2011 Indiana State Fair is just around the corner. The 2011 Open Tunis Show will be on Thursday morning August 18 starting at 9 am. We will be the first show of the day. Watch on the national Tunis website in the next few weeks for an entry form and class information. Deadline for entry is July 1. We also have a wool fleece show. So enter your Tunis fleeces in the Indiana State Fair wool show.

Tentative schedule for Indiana (updated and subject to change as we get closer to show day):

Monday, August 15 Begin arriving with your Tunis on this day but I suggest you start coming in on Tues, August 16

Wednesday, August 17 9 am/10 am Tunis registrations and class check-in will begin by the Tunis Breed Manager.

3 pm Indiana Tunis Association meeting

6 pm our traditional ice cream social.

Thursday, August 18 9 am Tunis Show begins. After the show is finished you are released to go home.

The Indiana State Fair Sheep Department would like for all the Tunis to be out of the barn by Thursday night unless you have other sheep breeds to show. If you have to stay please make arrangements with the sheep department.

Nomination for Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award

Anna Rae Hodgkin has worked diligently for many years to promote Tunis sheep and to preserve the history and significance of Tunis in the U.S. Therefore, I nominate Anna Rae for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award.

Anna Rae has maintained a large flock of Tunis for many years. Although she doesn't show her sheep on a national scale now, she does participate in Tunis endeavors that promote and conserve the Tunis breed throughout the U.S. Anna Rae has served as the NTSRI historian for several years and holds that distinction today. Over the years she has served as director from her region several times and also has held the offices of secretary and president on the BOD.

Anna Rae helps to promote Tunis sheep and sheep in general by belonging to other agricultural associations also. She attends Farm Bureau meetings including regional and national meetings whenever possible and other agricultural conferences such as the 2004 World Sheep and Wool Conference held in Quebec City in 2004 to gather information and present the sheep prospective. Anna Rae's TLF Farm Tunis flock achieved the scrapie free certification in September 2004. It was the second Tunis flock in the U. S. to achieve this distinction.

Anna Rae helps to promote Tunis to young people. She gives awards, guidance and occasionally even a Tunis to young people in her area. She has helped sponsor "extra gifts" for young people showing at NAILE and other local and major shows in her region.

Anna Rae has served the Tunis breed through local and national organizations and has been dedicated to the preservation of Tunis and the history of Tunis in the U. S. for many years. She has given time, energy, and expertise to the Tunis breed and to the preservation and expansion of Tunis and Tunis enthusiast. For all these reasons, and others not enumerated here, I am pleased to nominate Anna Rae Hodgkin for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award.

Nomination made by Barbara Cassell

Nomination for Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award

I truly believe that Nancy Schmidt is largely responsible for fueling the growth of the Tunis breed in the MidWest. For many years, Nancy and her husband, Pat, have faithfully groomed and transported a Tunis ewe for a breed display at the Ohio State Fair. I can't tell you how many people "discovered" the Tunis breed thru their efforts....but I know that I discovered the Tunis in 1994 after seeing that ewe. Nancy has continued to take care of that responsibility regardless of her health or if she was showing there or not...she supported the breed and the club.

Nancy has also supported the Tunis at the Maryland Wool Festival for a number of years. Again, she displayed a Tunis ewe but she also often donated a ewe lamb to be given away as part of their heritage or rare breeds promotion. Several of our youth members obtained their first Tunis by winning her donated ewe lamb. She has continued this practice for a length of time without receiving any monetary or advertising support.

In the mid 1990's, Nancy was active in organizing the Mid East Regional Tunis Association which represented Pennsylvania westward. This was one of the first organizations in the mid west that promoted the Tunis breed. Under Nancy's guidance, this group printed a newsletter and held an annual private treaty sale and meeting at different locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania for several years. When this club dissolved, Nancy stepped in and formed the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association. Besides serving as the NTSRI Regional Director for Ohio for several terms, Nancy has held many of the positions for the OTSA also.

I know that I am missing many of Nancy's accomplishments in the Tunis world but no one can miss the fact that Nancy has helped to move the Tunis breed westward. I want to thank Nancy for providing that service to so many people including Darling Tunis. She has made a difference in the Tunis world.

Nomination made by Louise Dunham

Let's Talk Wool – April

Interview with a Shearer – by Kim Day

Randy Stitzel is an ASI certified shearer working mostly in PA, NJ, DE and MD. For him, sheep shearing is a family business, as well as family history. Randy is a 3rd generation shearer and has taught the skill to his sons. His grandfather lived on a farm just outside of Fleetwood, PA, and started shearing sheep 115 years ago – at a time when most farmers kept a few sheep to supply the family with wool for knitting. I asked Randy his advice on several basic shearing questions that many shepherds will find helpful, whether novice or veteran sheep owner.

What is the best way to locate a reputable shearer?

Most people actually find a shearer by word of mouth, more than any other method. This is really a big thing. People are going to spread your name when you do your best with their flock.

The ASI (American Sheep Industry) also has an online database of shearers in the USA and Canada. You can find it at http://www.sheepusa.org/Shearer_Directory and you can search the directory by state. All shearers that are ASI-Certified will have “Certified Shearer” next to their name. The website will also list each shearer’s work area, time of year when they work, hometown, phone number(s) and email.

How should I describe my flock to a potential shearer?

What breed and how many animals you have. What kind of facilities you have. What the shearer needs to bring. If you’re able to keep animals dry or not

I tell my shearer about any diseases or injuries in my flock?

If you know about it, yes. A lot of the time small flock owners don’t notice some problems until shearing. Over the years the most common health problems have been foot problem and this is why we bring multiple pairs of hoof trimmers.

How close to lambing is it safe to shear a pregnant ewe?

No closer than 4-6 weeks, but further away is even better.

What should I do to prepare for shearing day?

Sheep should be corralled and food should be withheld for a few hours prior to shearing. Shearing is stressful on sheep and the calmer the animals are before and during shearing, the better job I can do and the more wool I can get off.

I bring my own boards but you can ask if you need to provide shearing boards or anything else for the shearer to use. All certified shearers need to follow the wool guidelines set by the ASI.

Do you use different clippers for different flocks, i.e., show, general or handspinning flocks? If so, how do they differ?

Yes. The animal or breed dictates what comb should be used with the blades. That’s why I ask what breed a flock is when I talk with any new customers.

Combs either have short bevels and less teeth or longer bevels and more teeth (combs have about 10-20 teeth on them). The teeth on the combs spread out the fibers. Since fine wool breeds have more densely arranged fibers than medium or coarse wool breeds, they need to be shorn using a comb with many teeth so that the wool is spread out better for shearing. For handspinning flocks, you need to use the right comb to make the shearing go easier and take you time to minimize 2nd cuts.

I hope some of this information that Randy shared will help you as you prepare to shear this season! Perhaps you will enter a fleece (or more) in the Tunis Wool Show in Wooster? **THANKS....Kim Day!**

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PAPER OR EMAIL? At the NTSRI Board Meeting in Louisville in 2008, I was instructed by the Board to send the newsletter by email to any member who has listed their email address with our association...so if you are receiving this by email...there will be no paper newsletter this time. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter instead, please notify the editor and the change will be quickly made!
Let me know - **Paper or email!** Louise Dunham, Editor

Selecting on More Than Just Good Looks

“Wow, don’t these lambs look good this year!” Would this describe how you feel about your lamb crop for this year? Are you sure that what you are looking at is really good? One way to measure how “good” these lambs are is to weigh lambs at weaning and then adjust those weights to make a fair comparison across your lamb crop.

Programs such as NSIP (National Sheep Improvement Program) and LambPlan are designed to help you make comparisons across a breed and provide you with selection parameters for a number of traits. If you aren’t part of NSIP or LambPlan you can do some simple comparisons within your own flock. Adjusted weaning weights are one example of data you can generate for your own flock. Weaning weights should be taken between 40 and 120 days of age and post weaning weights between 80 and 240 days of age. These are the data collection ranges recommended by LambPlan. Adjustments should be made for birth type, rearing type, sex of lamb, and age of dam. Let’s take a look at an example for two lambs born in a flock.

Lamb No.	Birth type/ Rearing type	Age of Dam	Sex	Weaning Weight (WW)	Weaning Weight Age (days)
1101	Tw-Tw	3	Ewe	60	72
1107	S-S	6	Ewe	67	70

We start our calculations by determining the preweaning weight per day of age. The calculation formula is:

$$WW = \text{weaning weight} \div \text{age} = \text{Pre-weaning WDA}$$

The next calculation uses this preweaning weight per day of age and then adjusts to a specific age plus an additional adjustment factor. For lambs that were weighed at an average age of 75 days or less, the adjustment is made to 60 days of age. For lambs weighed after an average of 75 days of age, the adjustment is made to 90 days of age.

Preweaning WDA X Standard Age at Weaning (60 or 90 days) X Adjustment Factor from Table 1 = Adjusted WW

The adjusted weaning weight for these two lambs would be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Lamb 1101} \quad 60 \text{ divided by } 72 \times 60 \times 1.19 = 59.5$$

$$\text{Lamb 1107} \quad 67 \text{ divided by } 70 \times 60 \times 1.00 = 57.4$$

Producers may also include birth weight in the equation by subtracting the birth weight from the weaning weight and then dividing by the days of age at weighing.

Table 1. Adjustment Factors for Correcting Weaning Weight (This adjusts lamb weights to a single born ewe)

		Age of ewe and sex of lamb								
		1			2 or > 6			3-6		
Birth Type	Rearing Type	E	W	R	E	W	R	E	W	R
S	S	1.13	1.10	1.02	1.08	1.05	0.98	1.00	0.98	0.91
S	Tw	1.21	1.17	1.07	1.13	1.11	1.03	1.05	1.03	0.96
Tw	S	1.29	1.25	1.15	1.19	1.16	1.08	1.10	1.08	1.00
Tw	Tw	1.38	1.33	1.21	1.29	1.26	1.17	1.19	1.16	1.08
Tr	S	1.40	1.26	1.23	1.28	1.25	1.16	1.18	1.15	1.07
Tr	Tw	1.51	1.45	1.31	1.28	1.35	1.25	1.27	1.24	1.15
Tr	Tr	1.80	1.72	1.53	1.54	1.50	1.38	1.36	1.33	1.23

E = ewe, W = wether, and R=ram

Lambs born as quads or more should use the triplet-born correction factors

So, what can we conclude from these calculations? Lamb 1101 should be genetically superior by Lamb 1107 for weaning weight because both lambs were raised under the same environmental conditions. We can also conclude that Lamb 1101 should be more likely to produce twins. However, bear in mind that the heritability of prolificacy is only 10% (SID Sheep Production Handbook) so environmental factors can greatly affect the likelihood of ewe 1101 to produce twin

These adjusted weights should be one piece of the principles that a sheep producer uses for selection.

Other selection factors might include, but not limited to, post weaning weight, yearling weight, carcass data, other reproductive traits, and fleece traits. And, a very important piece of those principles is visual appraisal. Even though the measurements might look great, sheep still need to be structurally correct, be free of faults such as inverted eyelids (entropion), and have a good disposition. (Just ask a cattle producer about decreased production caused by cattle with a bad attitude and they will tell you how important a good disposition can be! There are other selection principles that sheep producers use within their flocks. The goals of your operation will dictate what these selection principles entail and what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for animals kept for breeding stock.

Information for this article was adapted from "Recommendations for Sheep Selection Programs" written by Dan Morrill, Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University. For more information on sheep selection using performance data adjustments, check out Dr. Morrill's fact sheet that can be found on the internet at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/pm989x1.pdf>.

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BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS

The topic for discussion this time is....

"Facilities, Fences & Forages"

Julia Breeder of Lottsburg, Va writes..."We have a small 28' x 32' pole barn that we use as a lambing shed for our dozen ewes. Space is limited, so everything is movable to allow for flexible use of the area. We use 5 and 10 foot (51" tall) galvanized kidder panels by Tarter to set up sturdy group pens and partitions of many sizes and configurations when necessary. We use shorter (40" tall), lighter weight, 5 and 6 foot welded wire panels to create jugs and a creep area. The creep has an eight-foot creep panel and also a four-foot combination creep panel/walk thru door. The barn has a double basin utility sink with hot and cold running water, but we water the sheep the old fashioned way – manually! This year we used two round feeders to feed hay and grain because they took up the least amount of space inside the barn. However, too much hay ended up on the ewes and the floor. I have larger Sydell steel combination feeders that I am going to use next time because they are more restrictive with regard to how much hay the ewes can pull out, but I will have to feed outside the barn.

In addition to hot water at the sink, another nice thing about the barn is that it has a good number of electric outlets. Of course, I would like the barn to be bigger in general. But one aspect I would definitely change about this barn is I would make it taller. The first floor has an inside height of about 10 feet and I wish it was at least 12 feet. This is because with the light fixtures and ceiling fans, I cannot get the tractor all the way in to clean out the winter bedding. I told my husband the way to fix my problem is to buy me a skid steer!

Our permanent boundary fencing is constructed of 6-7" wood posts and 48" high-tensile fixed-knot woven wire with one strand of electric wire along the top and one strand of barbed wire at ground level. The top electrified wire is to discourage anything from climbing over the fence and also serves as a feed wire to connect Premier electric netting to create interior fencing. The barbed wire is to discourage dogs and coyotes from digging under, although we had some skunks dig under it with no difficulty. We have additional acreage that we want to put to use and the cost of fencing is a primary concern. However, when new fencing does go up I am going to make sure more gates are installed this time so people and animals do not have to cross through one paddock to get to another.

We live in southeastern Virginia and our pastures consist primarily of MaxQ Tall Fescue, which contains a non-toxic endophyte (cool season), Ladino Clover (cool season), and Crabgrass (warm season). Every Fall we try to reseed some of the pastures and have learned that undoubtedly the best stands result when you soil test first and apply each of the nutrients at the recommended levels. While we had always done this, one year we got lazy and did not submit soil tests and figured we would just put a bunch of 10-10-10 fertilizer down. The grass came up, but not like it should have and having less forage only makes things more difficult down the road."

Val Ames of Williamsford, Ontario writes "Our 45' X 55' bank barn was set up by previous farming owners for cows in the centre, pigs on one side, and horses on the other, with a 3' to 4' U shaped passage around the inside separating the three areas. The pig area had raised concrete troughs while the cow area had four 6' wide double 'bays' on each side, separated by oak and elm walls and feeders. The horse area was completely open. Unlike so many other sheep farmers, we opted not to gut the interior – and boy are we glad! With a sorting chute at one end of the U, a permanent and a temporary gate added at strategic points, the passage makes a wonderful sorting chute, and for deworming, weighing and other chores. The dividing walls in the cow area made more lounging space for the sheep, who seem to like having a wall at their backs. In the early days, when we had only 60 sheep or so, these areas were put into use at lambing time, in December/January, and subdivided to make either 3' X 5' or 3' X 6' lambing pens. The pig troughs had slatted 'caps' added, making them into hay feeders and the open area was then available to be divided according to requirements. The horse area was improved and divided into three for our quarter horses; when they 'retired' the stall walls were lowered and each stall was subdivided by moveable 6' hay feeders with solid backs to make three additional lambing pens in each stall. After lambing, the hay feeders are moved to the walls and each stall then becomes a pen for up to 10 sheep. The open overhang across the front of the barn was walled up but with three big rolling doors so it could still be utilized as a semi-open lounging area out of the sun/rain etc.. Each of the three main areas inside the barn have access to this one area and the outside, or it can be temporarily subdivided into three so separate outside access is available for all groups. Two low wattage insulated heated water bowls were installed, along with one hydrant that is used at lambing time to fill the individual buckets for each lambing pen. Although each area has its own hay feeders, hay is principally provided free choice in round bales outside under tarped greenhouses, 2 to 4 bales at a time depending on the size of the greenhouse.

As the flock grew, we added a 48' X 60' pole barn, pine walls (that we installed!), and steel roof, attached to the bank barn, with a floor of compacted road gravel sloping away from the bank barn. Apart from a double-sided central feeder down the length, (for the occasional inside hay feeding) that has a double heated water bowl at the half-way point, the barn has no permanent interior structures, making it possible to subdivide according to needs, and muck out with ease. The water bowl location made it possible to divide the barn into four areas each with access to an automatic waterer. This barn is warmer on sunny winter days than the bank barn, while the bank barn is wonderfully cool in the summer. Because of predator issues the sheep now have access to the barns 24/7 and during pasture season they come home routinely to lounge in the barn yards.

To keep costs down, all our feeders, (with the exception of food-grade PVC pipe, from a local creamery, for the grain feeders), and the walls and claiming pen panels, we made from standard rough cut hemlock. If you've ever heard discussion on what type of cutting board to use in the kitchen you will also have heard that the wooden ones are best for not harbouring bacteria etc. For this reason, (and because we have had no health issues on the farm since we started 25 years ago) we do not disinfect them; we do however spread lime on the concrete floor of the bank barn after mucking out every two or three years. We don't muck out annually as new bedding on a good pack makes a much warmer floor than just a few inches of new straw on concrete or road gravel.

Frances Finley of New Plymouth, ID writes "Fifteen years ago we started with California Reds to work our Australian Shepherd dogs. We learned of the Tunis and changed over to them but we don't work the young dogs on the Tunis. Bob and I now have some Katahdin crosses that we use to work our dogs on now. Currently we have 10 Tunis ewes and 2 rams plus some juvenile CVMS.

Our barn measures and is open at one end. Our barn is open but not drafty. I feel anytime you stall and confine animals too much you make them sick. We use to use cut up metal cow panels to make our pens but they are too hard on the wool jackets I now put on my sheep to keep the wool clean. So now we use iron sheep panels. These are removed so that I can use a tractor to clean it out. Our panels are 8 x 8 so I make the jugs 16 x 16 and they are all semi permanent. The ram pens have fiber glass houses (calf sheds) and are 60 x 60. The rams are not penned next to each other as there is a driveway between them but they can see each other.

I use metal feeders and use powder river panels with (no climb) fencing on the inside to keep dogs out. Our metal feeders to get beat up by the rams once in a while. I do have automatic waterers in the long corrals and pastures.

I use no climb fencing and put it clear to the group and have it 5 feet or more tall with a hot wire not to keep the sheep in but to keep the predators out. A hot wire can also help make the fencing permanent. We do use rotational grazing with 4 different pastures and rotate the flock thru them twice per season. We do keep the sheep in the feed lot in the winter. We have no feet problems. We also have some irrigated land.

I really love the Tunis for their size and disposition. We changed to the Tunis because they fatten up faster... have good wool and are easy to work with!"

Thanks, Frances & Bob

Donnie & Diana Guynn of South Fulton, TN writes "We started in Tunis when we purchased 3 young ewes from Mr. Kenneth Mayes in April of 2001. Then we added a young ram from Mr. Dale Royster of Martin, TN. Our sheep run all together all year around so we don't need any separate ram pens. We use the 36' x 36' horse barn with stalls only for a few days during lambing. The sheep are in the barn until we are sure the lamb is sucking and the mother is doing well after delivery and then they are turned back into the flock. We try to keep everything as natural as possible.

We use feeders made from PVC pipe cut in half and placed in a wooden frame. We don't have automatic waterers, we just use a 100 gallon Rubbermaid tank. Our sheep have the free run of 18 acres with permanent (barb wire and American wire) fencing for the boundaries and we also use some electric fence as needed. Quality fencing is very important. Our field consists of orchard grass, Jap and Bermuda mix...mostly just a pasture mix.

We like the Tunis for their gentle and loving nature and their appearance is great! They are good mothers and the quality of meat for eating is wonderful!"
Good Luck!

Virginia Lavin of Shingle Hollow Sheep Farm in Hoosick, NY writes...."We started in Tunis when my daughter saw them at our county fair over 30 years ago. We purchased 2 ewes, then a ram....and then as they say, the rest is history. We have probably had over 1000 born at our farm over the years. Currently we keep about a dozen brood ewes.

Our barn is a 16' by 24' sheep shed with 3 lambing pens and 1 large 'birthing' pen. We have a couple of other buildings we built to store hay. We keep our grain in a small grain room with zinc lined bins. The lambing pens are permanent but the creep area is movable. I have never kept a ram in a pen. They only seem to breed once a year and I've never tried for anything else.

I have wooden and metal and plastic and rubber feeds. The bunk feeder is wood and remains outside. Now and then I sanitize it but mostly I let the sun do its work. The others, I wash regularly. Oh, I'd love to have automatic waterers but it just isn't something I've been able to do.

I'm not happy with the barn but if I could, I'd move the big door to the south side and I'd add a hay loft for ease of feeding. (We were going to do these things years ago but my brother-in-law/carpenter died.) I would advise that you make sure that it is easy to clean, i.e. movable lamb pens and large enough door for loading manure.

We use woven wire permanent fencing. No problem with coyotes or dogs (knock on wood). We have always owned dogs who work with sheep and keep us alert to trouble. We drylot the sheep in two areas close to the house and feed hay year around. Our hayfields are too far from the house and are not fenced – just hedge rows – and it is just easier for two women to tend the flock. I'm a firm believer in permanent fencing with rotational grazing. For us, it saves a lot of work. We have timothy and broomgrass which we bale and feed. We purposely seeded these fields just for hay for the sheep. We grow no other crops.

I feel badly that the old style Tunis is going out of favor and is being replaced by these great big tall animals. Those of us who loved the medium sized breed miss them. They were unique in stature and flavor. Remember, they are a meat breed---and you can't eat bone!" Thanks, Virginia!

Sarah Todd of Salem, NY writes "I started with sheep in 2004 to train my herding dogs and I loved and wanted sheep. I currently have 16 Tunis and 6 other mixed breed sheep. I use a 20 x 28 wooden pole barn with a dirt floor. It is very open. If I had to do it again I would have more storage for hay and better access to clean it out. I have big sliders that face east and I have had a load of snow fall off the roof and kill some sheep as the sheep liked the sun there. I would advise that you don't have a sheep lounge area where there could be a heavy load of snow.

I use Premier double standing pens in the barn and I can move these panels. I use wooden feeders for the sheep. I really like the openness of the barn.

On the perimeter of the farm, I use woven wire fencing. I have 5 permanent pastures but I subdivide these with Premier Electro net fencing. I'm a huge believer in rotational grazing and I use the sheep to reclaim the pasture. With bush hogging and the sheep, I am reclaiming old hay fields and making them productive as pastures. I don't have any specific grasses to recommend but I've heard that red clover is detrimental to pregnant ewes. One year I had several pregnant ewes that didn't dilate properly and I think it was related to the red clover.

I love this breed of sheep. They have great temperaments and are very thrifty besides being excellent mothers. I'm sticking with the smaller, heritage type sheep as they fit my needs perfectly!" Thanks, Sarah

Jera Kranawetter of Jackson, MO writes...."In 2009, I went to the Missouri State Fair and saw the Tunis and liked them. Currently I have 7 Tunis and 9 Corriedales.

I use a 30' by 50' shed that is open on one side for the sheep. My lambing pens are 5' by 5' for more room for the lambs and the mothers. The creep area is bigger at 10' by 10'. I use a variety of wood and metal feeders and panels but I really like my automatic, freeze proof waterer for the flock. Of course, I use black, plastic tubs for small groups.

The best feature of the barn is that it is open to the south east and on that side is a large hill that blocks the wind so it doesn't blow on the sheep. But I would add more hay storage to the side of the barn if I could. I would recommend that you build the barn up hill enough on the slope that you don't have water problems.

We have woven wire fences around the outside of the pastures and put barbed wire on top for protection from dogs and coyotes. We also use electric fences on the inside to subdivide fields so we can rotate pastures. We run jennies with our sheep as protection from predators. Our pastures are mainly a fescue and clover mix.

I would advise new breeders to always use the best hay you can find because sometimes you will end up with hay that they will not eat and you have wasted your money. I have found the Tunis to be more easy going and gentle than other breeds."

Thanks, Jera!

Amy & Tom Crow of Earthways Farm of Osseo, Michigan writes...."Since getting our 10 ewe starter flock in 2002, the words I've grown to love the most are "flexibility" and "back-up plan (s)". There is no "perfect anything, it seems. Every system has it's "pros & cons" and once I was able to let go of thinking that there was a perfect system for everything, decision making got a little easier. (We currently have 38 ewes and 6 rams).

BARN: We had a new barn built in 2005 that is 48' x 40', almost 2 stories high (for hay storage) and has lots of windows for ventilation. It has 2 big doors (10' x 12') on the East/West ends to be able to drive a loaded hay wagon through. (This barn is attached to the original 24 x 32 pole barn, using a "garage/overhead" type door which eliminates "space-waste").

It has dirt floors so we can use t-posts and hog panels to construct pens at lambing time and come cleaning time, the roominess and big doors allow us to get our tractor in and maneuver easily (yet at that time of year I would love to have cement floors!) We use homemade lambing jug panels made out of 1"x 4" wood, 4 slates high, mostly 3' long, but we also have some 5' and 6' panels. We create our system as the lambs are being born, starting out with a big area with the pregnant ewes and at least 3 lambing jugs constructed. We've also discovered that having a cozy, inviting area next to the jug area and away from the feed and water, entices the ewes in labor to lamb in that area, making it easier to transition them into a jug, once the babies are born. We have about 4 homemade wooden creep panels (ranging from 3' - 7' long) to construct creeps with t-posts and hog panels in the nurseries as needed. The flexibility of t-posts and panels allows us to learn and change from year to year, keeping only those systems/ideas that work well.

FEEDERS: I love our feeders, which are metal with plastic tubs. They can be taken apart when not in use and stored in a small area and are light and easy to scrub clean. (Purchased from: www.midstateswoolgrowers.com). The feeders we use in the lambing jugs are great too for hay and grain from www.townsendequipment.com (16" hanging hay & grain feeders). **WATER:** We have 1 water hydrant for both barns that we use to bucket water to the different pens. A bit time consuming, but works.

FENCING: We fenced our property with 7 strands of hot wire (from 4" to 47") that works well for our sheep, lambs and draft horses. Though people in 2002 told us not to worry about coyotes because they were no longer around, we're glad we went with our beefed up hot wire, because the coyotes have made a come back recently. (The lowest wire 4" from ground is a great dog/coyote deterrent, but requires a bit more weed whipping). Our original fencing just off the original pole barn was put up to be solid holding and sorting area, so we used the expensive woven wire. But (back to the pro/con topic...) years later when we added on gates and pastures off that corral area, that type of fencing now causes alot of torn out ear tags when sheep rest by it. Finally, we use Premier electric netting to subdivide pastures and to create temporary grazing spaces on both our front and back yards throughout the summer (beats mowing!!)."

* * * * *

QUESTIONS????????? Contact these people!

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS - NTSRI, 15603 173RD AVE., MILO, IA 50166

FINANCIAL CONCERNS - Sally Barney, Treasurer, 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03824 603-659-5857

WEBSITE INFO - Debbi Brown texastunis@yahoo.com 254-863-0606

Ads on the website - \$10 Ads in the Newsletter - \$15 Same ad in both places - \$20

NEWSLETTER - COMPLIMENTARY PROMOTIONAL PACKETS & BROCHURES! -

Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH 43360

937-465-8299

20 Brochures - \$5

Dwight Barney of Woolmark Farm Tunis, Lee, NH writes: My wife Sally and I have been raising Tunis for almost 40 years now. The flock started as our daughter's 4-H project and has grown from there. We currently have both Tunis and Border Leicesters on the farm as well as a natural colored Border Leicester flock belonging to our granddaughter. Our past flock of 35 Tunis brood ewes is now 15 Tunis ewes, 8 natural colored Border Leicester ewes and 14 white Border Leicester ewes

Our barn is an old three-story New England barn built into a hillside so that the ground floor entrance is to the second floor. The barn was built in 1825 and has a stone foundation. We keep lambs on the main floor and our brood ewes in the cellar of the barn with direct access to our pastures from a south facing open entrance. The barn was converted from a cattle barn where the cattle were in stanchions on the main floor and the manure was tossed to the cellar. While this all sounds good, like many hillside barns in New England there is often water in the cellar during heavy rain and spring run-off despite significant drainage work which needs constant maintenance. The stanchions have been removed leaving a large pen for the lambs. The barn cellar is open with supporting columns every twelve feet. We change the pen structure in the cellar often as management needs change; we use a combination of wooden panels, hog panels, metal fences and moveable wooden feeders that double as pen dividers. We have a small walled off area in the cellar for a lamb pen which originally had cattle stanchions; we also use this area for a lamb creep as needed. We can setup the creep to receive lambs from two entrances which increases our ability to creep feed from more than one pen area at a time if needed.

Our main feeders are wooden feeders built onto the side walls of the large pen area; we also use the very versatile moveable feeder/divider. Our lambing jugs are solid sided plywood. We change our pen structure often as lambs grow, are sold and lambs are weaned. It is certainly easier to move the metal fences and hog panels and my wife prefers them, but we also continue to use the wooden partitions that have held up well for many years. After 40 years I do think that there are some diseases that are present in the barn but it is not something that isn't easily dealt with as long as you are aware that this might be the case.

We clean the cellar section of the barn with an old Farmall tractor and trip bucket, but the main floor pen and creep area in the cellar are done by hand; thank goodness for children and grandchildren. The barn is on one side of the road and our house and smaller barn are on the other. The smaller barn is a 2 stall horse barn with an attached shop and five large equipment bays. Our aged rams live in the horse stall and outside ram house; one of the equipment bays is home to our yearling ewes. Only the cellar of the main barn has an automatic waterer, all other water is carried by hand. This is not a great system and hitching the small barn to the well is on the wish list.

My advice in building a new barn is to be sure that you build a versatile structure that can handle a variety of penning arrangements. Design the facility so that it can all be cleaned by machine and not by hand. If I were rebuilding I would include running water, automatic, heated waterers and a covered fitting shed with hot and cold water and good drainage where we could fit the show flocks. In the pen area, plan for automatic waterers that can be accessed by two or more pens for maximum efficiency. Our hay and grain is stored in the main barn and I would be sure any structure I built would include hay and grain storage to reduce multiple handling of these feeds. Be sure your doors and inside areas can handle a tractor or skid steer.

We have an old woven wire perimeter fence around our main pasture area that has been up for forty years. Within that fence we have used electric fencing to design pastures for rotational grazing. One of the areas secured by electric fence is a loafing area where the ewes are penned each evening. There are too many coyotes to leave the ewes in the farther pastures overnight. About 50% of the ewes in the flock wear bells. We credit these bells, and the noise they make, with helping to keep coyotes away from the sheep; the bells also alert us to any disturbances as the sound of bells ringing as the sheep run is easily heard. Up behind the small barn is a pasture that is all secured with electric fence.

I would encourage beginners to invest in good electric fencing. Don't go the feed store charger route but instead invest in quality materials and you will have a fence you can rely on. I recommend a high tensile electric fence with a minimum of a 7,000 volt energizer.

Our pastures are old pastures of assorted grasses which have not been reseeded for the sheep. Sheep manure is applied each fall. I let the pastures get a good start before I put the sheep out (usually just before we head out to Wooster for the National Sale) and rotate the sheep often and trim and mow as needed to keep the grass coming. Some years we are feeding hay in August, other years we can go until October; it depends upon the rainfall. Our main forages are purchased from northern Maine and New Hampshire and are timothy grass/clover mixes. Most of the hay used is second and third cutting. I recommend purchasing the highest quality forages you can afford; the quality will be reflected in your sheep's condition.

The Tunis do well here in the northeast. We have a large ethnic market and the mild flavor of the Tunis meat brings the customers back year after year; we don't want to lose this flavor we are known for. The gentle nature of the breed and their medium size make them a great all-purpose sheep; bigger is not always better. As we move forward we need to remember these traits of medium size, good milking and mothering and mild flavored meat; and not let the show ring dictate the qualities of a good tunis sheep.

* * * * *

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DO YOU USE THESE NTSRI MEMBERS' SERVICES?

FREE Breeders' Directory Listing...Please send your farm information to Debbi Brown @ www.tunisheep.org. Include farm name and family members, address, phone # email/website information and a one line statement about your sheep.

FREE Wool Marketing Listing: NTSRI also has a listing of NTSRI members that sell Tunis wool or wool products. Send that information to Debbi also.

FREE "Wanted to Buy" ads are provided to members and to non members also. Please use this service to scout out animals needed for your flock!

"For Sale" ads are accepted from NTSRI members at a \$10 per ad charge for the website or \$15 for the printed newsletter or \$20 for both places. These ads work! Haven't you checked out those ads yourself?

EVENTS? Please use this space (and the newsletter) to advertise events in your area that feature or actively promote the Tunis sheep in some manner.

TUNIS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST: Have you looked at the pictures for this month? This contest allows members to submit pictures of their Tunis flock with the monthly winner receiving a \$20 Visa Debit Card. The pictures are on view for a month, a winner is selected and a new contest starts. Plans include using these pictures on a NTSRI calendar to be sold the following year. This is just free advertising for your sheep!

DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

Please contact Louise Dunham, NTSRI Editor at 937-465-8299 or
Debbi Brown at 254-863-0606 and we'll get the information on the
Tunis website.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: Regardless of when a membership fee is paid, the membership year runs from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of that year. All memberships then become due again on January 1st.

BREED BROCHURES: So that NTSRI members can promote their sheep, NTSRI Breed Brochures are available for sale from the editor. The price is \$5 for 20 brochures. The brochures (like the one in this packet) provides room for the farm to put their own individual information on the brochure.

PROMOTIONAL PACKETS: Members can request a complimentary packet of information to be sent to a recent buyer of Tunis or a prospective buyer of Tunis simply by contacting the editor.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

1. The newsletter is published 4 times a year - January, April, July and October and is normally mailed first class by the 20th of each month.
2. All members are encouraged to submit articles of general interest that are of interest to the Tunis membership.
3. Information about upcoming events involving Tunis sheep or Tunis products and the results of those events will be published as room permits.
4. Individual "For Sale" or "Wanted to Buy" ads cost \$15 per issue or \$20 to be placed in both the newsletter and on the website. Contact either Louise or Debbi for more information.

The newsletter is available in two forms: paper or by email. The Board has directed the editor to use the member's email address if available as a cost cutting measure. You, as a member, have the final decision of how you want to receive your newsletter either by paper or by email. Please contact the editor, Louise Dunham, at 937-465-8299 or tunis@bright.net to change the method of delivery.

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**NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY INC.
2011 - MEMBERSHIP FORM**

MEMBERSHIP NAME* _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

MEMBER'S NAMES** _____

ST. ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____ E MAIL _____

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* Individual or Farm Name...Junior memberships can only be one name.

** For Family/Farm Partnerships...List individuals included in the membership.

*** Junior members must be less than 22 years old...List Birthdate: __/__/__

Amount Enclosed _____

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